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A N N U A L R E P O R T
- of the -
M E D I C A L O F F I C E R O F H E A L T H
for the year 1962.

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BY

DR. HUGH MORRISON.
M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.



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WELLINGTON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL (SOMERSET)

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR 1962.

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF, 1962.

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WELLINGTON URBAN DISTRICT

STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR, 1962

Area (in Acres)	2,186.
Estimate of Resident Population, mid year 1962 ...	7,680
Census population, 1961	7,670
Number of Inhabited houses according to the Rate Books on the 1st April, 1962	2,525
Rateable Value, 1st April, 1962	£91,869
Sum represented by a 1d Rate, 1st April 1962	£377. 8. 10d.

PHYSICAL CHARACTER AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS

The Urban District of Wellington lies between 212 ft. at Tonedale in the North, and 293 ft. in the region of the cemetery, above sea level. It is built upon the triassic rock (new red sandstone) here divisible into (1) marl, (2) sandstone, (3) conglomerate, (4) sand and sandstone. The town is chiefly upon sandstone. The marl is well shown in the direction of the Poole Brick Pits (just outside the District), and a narrow strip of marl crosses the Market Place extending $\frac{1}{4}$ mile to the North-West. Rockwell Green is on the marl. The sandstones make a dry permeable soil. The marl and sandstone belong to the keuper or upper division of the new red sandstone. Gravel patches occur over a considerable part of the triassic rock between Wellington and Sampford Arundel.

The local industries are chiefly factories for the manufacture of woollen, worsted, cloth, serge, flock, bedding and engineering works. Agriculture within and without the Urban District, and brickmaking just outside the District also give employment to the inhabitants. The Census Population in 1911 was 7,633 - in 1921 it was 7,212 - in 1931 it was 7,132 - in 1951 it was 7,298 and in 1961 it was 7,670.

EXTRACTS FROM THE VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR, 1962.

1. Births.

(a) Live Births.

	M.	F.	Total.	Crude birth rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population.	15.3.
Legitimate	56	47	103		
Illegitimate	6	9	15		
Totals:	62	56	118		

Standardised Birth Rate, Wellington U.D.....	16.8.
Birth Rate, England and Wales	18.0

(b) Stillbirths.

Total	1
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Rate per 1,000 (live and still) births -

Wellington U.D.....	15.4
England and Wales	18.1.

Rate per 1,000 estimated resident population -

Wellington U.D.....	0.1.
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(S)

(S)

(S)

2. Deaths

(a) Total deaths	96.
Crude Rate per 1,000 estimated resident population	12.5
Standardised Death Rate, Wellington U.D.	9.75
Death Rate for England and Wales	11.9.

(b) Maternal Mortality.

Total maternal deaths from all causes	0.
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(c) Infant Mortality.

Deaths of infants under 1 year of age -	
Total	0.
Deaths among legitimate infants	0.
Deaths among illegitimate infants	0.
Death Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births -	
Wellington U.D.	0.0
England and Wales	21.4.

(d) Deaths from Cancer (all ages) -

Total	13.
-------------	-----

CAUSES OF DEATH DURING 1962.

Cause of Death	M	F	Total
Tuberculosis respiratory	-	-	-
Tuberculosis other	-	-	-
Syphilitic disease	-	-	-
Diphtheria	-	-	-
Whooping Cough	-	-	-
Meningococcal Infections	-	-	-
Acute Poliomyelitis	-	-	-
Measles	-	-	-
Other infective and parasitic diseases ...	1	-	1
Malignant Neoplasm stomach	2	1	3
Malignant Neoplasm Lung, Bronchus	1	-	1
Malignant Neoplasm Breast	-	2	2
Malignant Neoplasm Uterus	-	-	-
Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms ...	3	4	7
Leukaemia, aleukaemia	-	1	1
Diabetes	-	1	1
Vascular Lesions of nervous system	3	11	14
Coronary disease angina	16	8	24
Hypertension with heart disease	-	2	2
Other heart disease	4	9	13
Other circulatory disease	1	3	4
Influenza	-	-	-
Pneumonia	4	1	5
Bronchitis	2	1	3
Other disease of respiratory system	1	-	1
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	-	2	2
Gastritis, Enteritis & Diarrhoea	-	-	-
Nephritis & Nephrosis	-	-	-
Hyperplasia of prostate	-	-	-
Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion	-	-	-
Congenital Malformations	-	1	1
Other defined and ill defined diseases ...	4	4	8
Motor vehicle accidents	2	-	2
All other accidents	1	-	1
Suicide	-	-	-
Homicide and operation of war	-	-	-
All causes - Total	45	51	96

Infant Mortality during 1962.

It is gratifying to be able to record that there were no deaths of infants under the age of one year in the Urban District during 1962.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

Domiciliary Services.

1. Medical and Nursing.

There are six general medical practitioners living and carrying on practice in the Urban District. There are adequate arrangements when required for domiciliary consultation with consultants serving the Taunton and West Somerset Area, and speaking generally, the practice of medicine in the district is of a high standard. The provisions for domiciliary nursing are also satisfactory.

2. Home Help Service.

This service, administered by the Somerset County Council, is now well established in the district, and the invaluable assistance is given in many cases of illness and the domestic difficulties arising therefrom. There is no doubt that this is one of the most useful of all public services. I am indebted to the County Organiser for the following analysis of cases where help was arranged in Wellington Urban District during 1962.

Post and Pre-Natal	3
Maternity	2
Old Age	49
Chronic Sick	14
Post Operation	2
Accidents and temporary illness	5
	<hr/>
	75

Hospital Services

The Hospital Services of the district are administered by the Taunton Hospital Management Committee under the general direction of the S.W. Regional Hospital Board. A detailed re-appraisal of these services is going on at the present time following on the production by the Government of a comprehensive Hospital Plan for the nation. Some of the provisions for the needs of various types of patients are detailed below:-

1. General Medical and Surgical.

The Taunton and Somerset Hospital together with Musgrove Park Hospital, which is also situated in the Borough of Taunton and which is probably eventually destined to supersede the first-named establishment, cater for most medical and surgical conditions. Musgrove Park Hospital takes most of the adult cases, and also has a comprehensive Paediatric Department. The Taunton and Somerset Hospital is, in the meantime, dealing with Orthopaedics and Ophthalmology. It also houses the Casualty Department for the area. Both Hospitals have out-patients facilities in addition to in-patient beds. Certain cases requiring special investigation or treatment such as neurosurgery or radiotherapy are referred to Bristol Hospitals for this purpose. Wellington Cottage Hospital provides valuable facilities for local cases which do not require to be sent to large institutions, and complete consultant cover is available for the work carried out there.

2. Chronic Sick.

Since the appointment of a Geriatrician to the West Somerset Clinical Area, arrangements for hospital treatment of the chronic sick have been put on a more satisfactory basis. Most of these cases are admitted to Trinity Hospital in Taunton which is having many internal improvements carried out in order to raise it to the highest modern standards. There continues to be a very great pressure on accommodation of this type, and this is a branch of medical care which will undoubtedly make increasing demands on medical and ancillary services as the years go on.

3. Infectious Diseases.

Cases of infectious diseases from Wellington Urban District are sent to the Taunton Isolation Hospital situated in the Borough of Taunton. The bulk of the Isolation Hospital work is done in cubicle blocks. The pattern of infectious disease requiring admission to hospital is certainly changing. Many of the patients admitted suffer from vague pyrexial illnesses in which the diagnosis is in doubt. Scarlet Fever which used to provide a large proportion of the admissions is, at the present time, a relatively mild disease, and most of the cases are nursed at home. Measles and Whooping Cough still demand hospital treatment in the occasional case where there are severe complications or where home nursing is impracticable. Diphtheria has not been seen in the district for many years. Poliomyelitis is being brought under control by inoculation, and in the past few years there has not been a severe epidemic in this part of the Country. Many cases are, however, admitted to hospital on suspicion of suffering from poliomyelitis, and these often provide difficult diagnostic problems. The extensive use of antibiotics has resulted in the appearance of severe infections due to certain bacteria which were formerly regarded as fairly harmless, and this leads to the admission of cases of this kind to the Isolation Hospital. Thus although the type of illness dealt with changes over the year, the total number of cases requiring isolation treatment has rather tended to increase than to diminish.

4. Tuberculosis.

Cases of Pulmonary and Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis come under the Regional Hospital Board for treatment, which is supervised by the Chest Physician for the area. The Sanatoria are at Quantock, Wincanton and Taunton for pulmonary cases. Cases requiring Orthopaedic treatment are becoming very uncommon, but when they do occur, arrangements for treatment are made according to the individual need.

5. Poliomyelitis.

Suspected cases are sent for diagnosis to the Taunton Isolation Hospital. If the condition is confirmed they are seen by Regional Specialists who arrange for continuation treatment either as out-patients or as in-patients at Bath Orthopaedic Hospital.

6. Mentally Sick.

Cases are admitted to the Mental Hospital at Tone Vale, near Taunton. The psychiatric specialists conduct out-patients' clinics for the area, and it is felt that now, more than ever before, mental patients are having the benefit of treatment at an earlier and more hopeful stage of the disease.

Mentally defective cases are well provided for at Sandhill Park Hospital, which is situated in Taunton Rural District.

CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES.

1. Tuberculosis

Clinics for patients suffering from this disease, and for the supervision of suspects and contacts are held by the Chest Physicians at Musgrove Park Hospital. There is an After-Care Committee working in co-operation with these clinics. Mass Radiography has been carried out from time to time on various groups of the County population by a team working from a centre in Bristol, and Wellington is one of the districts which has had the benefit of this service.

2. Venereal Disease.

A combined clinic and treatment centre is carried on at the Taunton and Somerset Hospital which caters for male and female patients of this and surrounding districts.

Early cases of syphilis are usually sent to Frenchay Hospital, Bristol, for a fortnight's intensive penicillin treatment as in-patients. Afterwards they continue to have observation and treatment at the Taunton Clinic.

These conditions which had, for some years, become rather uncommon in the district have been latterly showing a marked increase in prevalence; and this is in accordance with the country as a whole.

3. Maternity and Child Welfare.

The Maternity and Child Welfare Acts are administered by the County Council, under whose supervision are also the Health Visitors and Midwives practising within the area. There is an excellent Maternity Home in the Urban District of Wellington. Obstetric Consultants in Taunton are available for consultation with Medical Practitioners in the District. Abnormal and complicated cases are admitted for hospital treatment when necessary. Every case of Puerperal Pyrexia and Maternal Mortality is investigated by the Medical Staff of the County Council.

A weekly clinic is held in premises at Messrs. Fox Bros. An Assistant County Child Welfare Medical Officer attends on the first and third Fridays of each month, in addition to the District Midwives who attend weekly.

LABORATORY FACILITIES

The Public Health Laboratory Service has a Laboratory in Taunton at which all the usual specimens connected with Public Health work, such as throat and nose swabs, blood, faeces and sputum are examined. The Staff of the Laboratory also give very useful assistance in the investigation of epidemic outbreaks. Chemical Analyses are carried out as requested at the Laboratory of the County Analyst in Taunton.

AMBULANCE FACILITIES

Ambulance transport for all cases is the responsibility of the Somerset County Council. A central ambulance department has been set up which arranges for vehicles to be provided as required.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948. SECTION 47.

No statutory action has been taken under this Act but cases have been dealt with by informal action.

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

DISEASES	T O T A L	A G E G R O U P							
		1st year of life	1 - 2	3 - 4	5 - 9	10 - 14	15 - 24	25 and over	Age not known
Whooping Cough	7	1	1	3	3	1	1	1	1
Measles	52	3	8	9	28	3	1	1	1
Pneumonia	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Scarlet Fever	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Erysipelas	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Rheumatism	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1

Notification rates for Wellington Urban District compared with those of the previous years are calculated as per 1,000 civilian population.

Diseases	No. of Notifications	Rates for Wellington U.D.C.	
		1962	1961.
Whooping Cough	7	0.91	0.65
Measles	52	6.6	7.30
Pneumonia	1	0.13	0.65
Scarlet Fever	1	0.13	0.78
Erysipelas	1	0.13	0.26
Rheumatism	1	0.13	0.00

TUBERCULOSIS

Particulars of new cases and number of deaths from Tuberculosis are shown in the following table:-

Age Periods	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Respiratory		Non Respiratory		Respiratory		Non Respiratory	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Under 1 yr.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1 - 4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5 - 14	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15 - 24	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
25 - 44	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
45 - 64	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
65 and over	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Age unknown	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTALS	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-

At the end of the year the tuberculosis register contained the names and addresses of 20 cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis and 5 cases of Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis.

IMMUNISATION

Diphtheria Immunisation

The immunisation campaign against diphtheria has been an outstanding success in this district and in the country as a whole; but it remains essential that all young children should be given the benefit of this protection, and there is some evidence that without constant stress on this fact, the number of children being immunised each year might easily fall to a dangerously low level.

Total "Primaries" under 5 years ...	...	...	71
Total "Primaries" 5 - 14 years ...	...	...	16
Total Re-inforcements ...	...	...	64

Whooping Cough Immunisation

It is customary in the County of Somerset to combine immunisation against whooping cough with the course used to protect against diphtheria, and this is also a most valuable public health measure, since whooping cough is now probably the most serious of the common infectious diseases affecting young children.

22 babies under one year of age were immunised against whopping cough. This is 18.6% of the total annual live births.

Tetanus Immunisation.

Immunisation against tetanus is now also being offered to children, the required injections usually being combined in the series given against diphtheria and whooping cough.

Number of children immunised:-

			<u>Primaries</u>	<u>Re-inforcing.</u>
Under 1 year ...	...	...	22	-
1 - 5 years ...	...	...	49	-
6 - 10 yeara ...	...	...	7	14
11 - 16 years ...	...	...	1	-

Poliomyelitis Immunisation.

Poliomyelitis immunisation, which formally involved injections is now carried out by giving the material by mouth. During 1962 the following persons received a course of primary vaccination or oral doses.

Children born in 1962	9
Children (aged up to 18 years)	92
Young Persons (aged 19 - 29 years)	15
Persons under 40 years and priority groups	56
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Total	172
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In addition 187 persons, comprising all groups, received their third (re-inforcing) injection.

41 children between 5 - 12 years received a 4th re-inforcing injection.

44 children between 5 and 12 years received a dose of Oral after 3 injections.

Smallpox Vaccination.

The aim in future will be to vaccinate children routinely in the second year of life.

The greatly increased number of children and adults vaccinated in 1962 resulted from the smallpox epidemic which occurred in the North, the Midlands and South Wales in the early months of the year.

				<u>Vaccination</u>		<u>Re-vaccination</u>	
				<u>1961</u>	<u>1962</u>	<u>1961</u>	<u>1962</u>
Under 1 year	...	...	...	51	61	-	-
1 year	...	...	...	6	16	-	-
2 - 4 years	...	...	...	1	19	-	9
5 - 14 years	...	...	...	8	152	-	35
15 or over	...	...	...	4	346	1	408
				<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total				70	594	1	452
				<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

B.C.G. Immunisation against T.B.

Immunisation against Tuberculosis by the use of B.C.G. vaccine is offered to susceptible children at the age of thirteen.

49 children attending school in the Urban district were given the Heaf Test and 46 were given B.C.G. Vaccination.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES IN THE AREA

WATER SUPPLY.

This is derived from deep seated springs found in the old red sandstone at Westford and Payton, and a borehole at Pitt Farm. There is no known liability to pollution. The water (180,000 gallons daily) is collected in underground brick and cement tanks without filtration, and from thence pumped into three water towers, two situated in Rockwell green, their capacities being 100,000 gallons (constructed in 1935) and 20,000 gallons, and the other at Dark Lane with a capacity of 40,000 gallons. The water is chlorinated before it reaches the consumer.

The Public Analyst reports on the chemical analysis of a sample taken from a consumers tap "This water is fairly hard in character much of which is temporary in nature". The supply from Pitt Farm Borehole "contains an excessive amount of iron (1.2 p.p.m.)". The traces of zinc and iron present, although undesirable, are of no danger to health.

Water Supply (contd.)

The supply of the area has been satisfactory as regards quantity. It is constant and it has not been necessary to restrict the hours of supply.

Eight samples of raw water on bacteriological examination gave good results, and nine samples of chlorinated water taken from consumer's taps which were bacteriologically examined, all gave satisfactory results. A sample from each of the following sources of supply has been chemically analysed:- Westford Springs, Payton Springs and Pitt Farm Borehole. All gave satisfactory results but the degrees of hardness in each case is somewhat high. The high iron content of the Pitt Farm Borehole water gives some concern. The amount of iron fluctuates. Since 1952 it has varied between 0.5 to 2.5 parts per million. This is more than that which is desirable in a water used for drinking and domestic purposes.

There are 2,531 dwellinghouses supplied direct from the public mains serving a population of 7593, and thirteen dwellings with a population of 43 are supplied by means of standpipes.

The water is not liable to have any plumbo-solvent action, it is somewhat hard, the total hardness being 305.0 parts per million, this being the mixed water from the three sources of supply as supplied to the consumer.

It has not been necessary to take action in respect of any form of contamination.

SEWAGE DISPOSAL

The Tone Sewage Works consists essentially of continuous flow settlement tanks, the effluent from which flows on to a sprinkler aeration and bacteria beds. The clarified effluent so formed discharges into the River Tone. It is of statutory quality and has caused no nuisance in the river. The effluent continues to give satisfactory results on chemical analysis. These works are running at full capacity.

In addition to the above main Sewage Disposal Works, there is a smaller works dealing with a limited amount of sewage to the South of the Town known as Mitchell's Pool. These works serve the Pyles Thorne area and the Priory. The effluent from these works give satisfactory chemical analysis results. A small disposal plant at Farthings Pitts deals with sewage from twelve dwellings in this area.

The drainage of the Town is by a combined system. That is the sewers receive not only the sewage proper but also the rainwater that falls in the area. Where possible the surface water from new buildings is now taken to soakaways.

The River Tone bounds the Town in the North and West. The treated effluent of a woollen factory passes into the River as well as the effluent from the sewage works. The water carriage system is universal in the district.

PUBLIC CLEANSING

This is undertaken by Direct Labour and all premises are visited weekly. The type of refuse now produced has a very high unburnable content due to the increasing installation of improved solid fuel heating, and cooking appliances by which much of the domestic refuse is consumed leaving burnt ashes, dust, tins and bottles etc. for disposal. This, when fed to the refuse destructor, is not easily destroyed, and results in excessive clinkering. The destructor is incapable of dealing with the quantity or type of refuse now collected per day, approximately 9 tons. To partially overcome this difficulty each load is raked over a grid in order to separate as much ash and small unburnable material as possible, and the siftings taken to an adjoining tip. Tins are separated, baled and sold. The remainder is disposed of in the destructor. Even so, the quantity to be disposed of is in excess of the destructor's capacity, and by having to use excessive force draught damage is caused to the linings of the chamber and metalwork necessitating

/frequent

PUBLIC CLEANSING (Contd.)

frequent repairs. The Council have given consideration to the provision of another destructor or alternatively acquiring a suitable site where controlled tipping may be operated. A site in a disused canal has been obtained and should provide a controlled tip for approximately two to three years.

Trade refuse from business premises is collected weekly. Two bins are collected free and all in excess are charged at the rate of 1/- per bin for the first three and 9d. for each additional bin. The size of the bin is restricted to $3\frac{1}{2}$ cu. ft.

ERADICATION OF BED BUGS.

No Council houses or other premises were found to be infested during the year.

OFFENSIVE TRADES

There are no offensive trades in the district within the meaning of Section 107 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

REGISTERED COMMON LODGING HOUSES.

There are no registered common lodging houses within the Urban District.

SCHOOLS.

The sanitary conditions of the schools in the area continue to be reasonably satisfactory, and they are all on the public water supply and sewerage system.

SWIMMING BATHS AND POOLS.

There is one privately owned open-air swimming pool in the district which is open to the public. It has a capacity of 65,625 gallons, and during the summer months there have been problems of overcrowding, but arrangements have been made to avoid this in future seasons.

The rate of circulation of water in the pool is below the standard recommended by the Ministry of Health, and there has been difficulty at times in keeping chlorination up to the desirable level. 30 samples were taken for bacteriological examination of which 27 were satisfactory, and 3 unsatisfactory. Careful checking of conditions at the pool and frequent inspections are made to avoid danger to public health.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA

NATURE AND NUMBER OF INSPECTIONS DURING THE YEAR:-

Dwelling houses	931
Premises where food is sold or prepared	62
Factories, workshops and workplaces ...	37
Drainage	192
Miscellaneous	97

NUMBER OF NOTICES SERVED DURING THE YEAR

Informal Notices	93
Statutory Notices	0

RESULTS OF NOTICES SERVED:-

Total notices complied with	72
Notices standing over at end of year ...	21

SHOP ACT

Certain powers relating to health and comfort and sanitary provisions are delegated by the County Council to this Authority and 37 inspections have been made. The defects found were mainly of a minor character and all were rectified. It was not found necessary to take statutory action to get the defects remedied, and no action has been called for in relation to heating arrangements.

FACTORIES ACT, 1961.

URBAN DISTRICT OF WELLINGTON 1962.

Prescribed particulars on the administration of the Factories Act, 1961.

PART I OF THE ACT.

1. INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health made by the Public Health Inspector:-

Premises	Number on Register	N u m b e r o f		
		Inspection- tions	Written Notices	Occupiers prosecuted.
(i) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities.	16	18	3	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority.	21	19	4	-
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	-	-	-	-
TOTAL:-	37	37	7	-

2. CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND.

Particulars (1)	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted. (6)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred to H.M. Inspector. (4)	by H.M. Inspector (5)	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	3	3	-	-	-
Overcrowding (S.2)	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) insufficient	-	-	-	-	-
(b) unsuitable or defective	5	5	-	-	-
(c) not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to outwork)	4	3	-	-	-
TOTAL:-	12	11	-	-	-

BAKEHOUSES.

There are two bakehouses in the District and ten inspections were made. They are kept in a satisfactory condition and are on the public water supply. Minor defects have been noted and dealt with by informal action.

MEAT INSPECTION.

There are two slaughterhouses in the district in regular use. Details of inspections and condemnations were as follows:-

Carcases and Offal inspected and condemned in whole or in part.

	Cattle excluding cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number inspected	81	4	3	228	141
<u>All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci.</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned	0	0	0	0	0
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	3	0	0	6	5
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci.	3.6	0	0	2.6	3.5
<u>Tuberculosis only:-</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned	0	0	0	0	0
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	3	0	0	0	3
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	3.6	0	0	0	2.1
<u>Cysticercosis.</u>					
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	0	0	0	0	0
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration	0	0	0	0	0
Generally and totally condemned	0	0	0	0	0
Weight of Meat condemned (in lbs.) for:-					
(a) Tuberculosis	64	0	0	0	77
(b) Cysticercosis	0	0	0	0	0
(c) Other	117	0	0	54	41
Total (in lbs.) condemned:-	181	0	0	54	118

The following quantities of foodstuffs were condemned as being unfit for human consumption, and surrendered by the owners and disposed of at the Council's refuse destructor:-

Tinned Foods	285 tins
Bacon	19 lbs.

FOOD POISONING OUTBREAKS.

No outbreaks of food poisoning have occurred in the district during the year under review.

FOOD PREMISES.

Inspections are made of food premises and advice given on methods of improving conditions. It is pleasing to record that the majority of traders are willing to co-operate.

62 inspections have been made of the 48 food premises registered under the Food & Drugs Act, 1955, which are on the whole kept in a satisfactory state. The food traders are co-operative in having suggested improvements carried out, and no exceptional difficulties have been encountered. There remains considerable improvement to be made in personal hygiene in the handling and wrapping of food.

There are 6 premises registered for the Preparation or Manufacture of Preserved Foods, 37 for the sale of ice-cream and two to manufacture and sell ice-cream under the Food & Drugs Act, 1955. The six are butchers premises for the manufacture of preserved meats, meat pies and sausages etc.

With the exception of two small retail manufacturers of ice-cream whose sales from their shops are small, all other ice-cream sold in the district is pre-packed and sold as received from the large manufacturers.

FOOD HYGIENE.

Inspections have been continued during the year and the general standard of food premises has improved, and food producers and retailers are realising the need and advantage derived from clean and up-to-date premises, this is supported by the increasing awareness of the public for the need of clean habits in food handling, and a more critical attitude towards those who fail to observe proper elementary precautions. The process is one of education on the actual premises when various bad practices can be pointed out, and it is also important that hygiene practices should be observed in the homes, so that the younger generation will have the benefit. It has not been necessary to take legal proceedings during the year.

Experience has proved beyond doubt that the vital part played by refrigeration in minimising the risk of food poisoning is greatly to be encouraged.

TUBERCULOSIS ORDER.

No cows were slaughtered under this Order during the year.

HOUSING

The Council has made some progress with the building of new houses. It has had great difficulty in acquiring suitable sites at a reasonable cost and this has retarded the progress during the year in slum clearance and rehousing to meet the general need.

Property which is below standard calls for a great deal of patience and tact all round, and in the meantime no end to the demand for new and improved accommodation can be seen for some years to come. Grants are available to help owners/modernise their houses, either by improvements or conversion, and it is hoped that owners of property will avail themselves of this financial help to improve their houses. The amenities which older houses often lack are a bath, indoor sanitation, hot and cold water supply and ventilated food cupboards. It is hoped in the near future that these improvements will be carried out to all houses where they are now absent. During the year six applications for discretionary and 27 applications for standard grants were approved and there are signs of this number increasing in the future.

HOUSING (Contd.)

The following table is required by the Ministry of Housing and Local Government:-

(1)	The number of houses which on inspection were considered to be unfit for human habitation;	18
(2)	The number of houses the defects in which were remedied in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers;	146
(3)	The number of Representations made to the Local Authority with a view to (a) serving of notices requiring the execution of works; or (b) the making of Demolition or Closing Orders;	5
(4)	The number of informal notices served requiring the execution of works;	101
(5)	The number of houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices;	0
(6)	The number of Demolition or Closing Orders made;	3
(7)	The number of houses in respect of which an Undertaking was accepted under Sub-Section (4) of Section 16 of the Housing Act, 1957.	2
(8)	The number of houses demolished.	8

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949

The Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949, emphasises the duty of every Local Authority to take all necessary steps to secure, as far practicable, that their district is kept free from rats and mice. Occupiers must notify the Local Authority if their premises are infested with rodents. It is encouraging to record that occupiers of infested premises have been extremely helpful in co-operating with the Department in the clearance of vermin, and in no instance has recourse to statutory action been necessary. The Council employ one part-time operator.



